

REMARKS

I. CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 USC § 103

The Examiner rejects claims 1-4, and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over admitted prior art ("Admission") in view of *Powell* (U.S. Patent No. 4,007,953).

The Examiner states that, regarding claim 1, the Admission in the specification teaches transducer mount 100 including a base 130, a holder sleeve 140 or first sleeve extending from the base, and a union sleeve 150 or second sleeve engaged with the holder sleeve. The Examiner states that the prior art lacks the first sleeve slidably engagable and removable from the second sleeve.

The Examiner states that *Powell* discloses a coupling assembly for electrical and fluid applications wherein there is taught a sleeve-like barrel 12 and sleeve-like coupling nut 14 assembled with a snap ring 16 so that the nut may be removed. The two sleeve-like portions slide together along key ways.

The Admission teaches an ultrasonic transducer mount including a base. Extending from the base is a holder sleeve. The holder sleeve holds a transducer holder that, in turn, holds a transducer. On the outside of holder sleeve are threads on an increased outer diameter section that engage a union nut. The Admission refers to the increased outer diameter portion as the union sleeve although it is actually an extension of the holder sleeve itself. The union nut is part of an extractor tool that is used to remove the transducer holder and the transducer from the holder sleeve of the transducer mount. The holder sleeve is never removed from the transducer mount base and does not incur any premature wear and tear during normal operation that would cause a need for a portion of it to be replaced separately from the mount base.

Powell discloses a removable, captive coupling nut assembly. The coupling nut assembly comprises a coupling nut rotatably mounted on a barrel and a snap ring for captivating the nut axially on the barrel. The inner surface of the coupling nut is threaded for threadedly engaging the externally threaded shell of a mating receptacle connector member, which would extend into the annular space between the barrel and the coupling nut. The snap ring, the barrel, and the nut are designed so that the snap ring may be removed from the registering grooves in the barrel and nut, thereby allowing the nut to be removed from the barrel. The coupling nut assembly may be disassembled without the use of a tool, thereby permitting replacement of damaged or defective parts without the necessity of discarding or destroying any or all of the remaining parts of the assembly.

The Examiner states that it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide for a removable sleeve-like coupling nut so that it may be replaced should it wear. The Examiner's allegation assumes that there is some motivation to combine the teachings of *Powell* with the transducer mount in the Admission. However, there is no motivation to combine the Admission with *Powell*. As stated above, *Powell* teaches a coupling nut assembly with a removable coupling nut to allow separation of the coupling nut for repair or replacement. The Admission, however, teaches a holder sleeve with external threads for attaching an extractor tool to an ultrasonic transducer mount. *Powell's* motivation is to be able to economically replace a portion of the assembly that fails prematurely due to wear on the coupling nut. The Admission, however, never discloses having to replace the holder sleeve separately from the mount itself due to premature wear of a portion of the holder sleeve. Even more so, the Admission and *Powell* actually teach away from each other because the Admission never teaches

replacing the holder sleeve while *Powell* is entirely based on the need to replace or repair the coupling nut. Therefore, claim 1 would not be obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over the Admission in view of *Powell*. Applicant thus respectfully submits that claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

As for claim 2, the Examiner states that the Admission shows the base includes a top surface, at least one side surface, and a bottom surface.

Applicant repeats its statements made above for claim 1. As claim 2 depends on claim 1, claim 2 would not be obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over the Admission in view of *Powell*. Applicant thus respectfully submits that claim 2 is in condition for allowance.

As for claim 3, the Examiner alleges that the Admission shows slots on the base top surface with slot holes extending through the base and screws fixedly engaging the slot holes for attaching the transducer mount to a housing.

Applicant repeats its statements made above for claims 1 and 2. As claim 3 depends on claim 2, claim 3 would not be obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over the Admission in view of *Powell*. Applicant thus respectfully submits that claim 3 is in condition for allowance.

As for claim 4, the Examiner takes Official Notice that it is widely known in the art to provide slits, slots, and grooves in various devices and one of ordinary skill would have known of their advantageous use in allowing easy separation by prying with a screwdriver.

Applicant repeats its statements made above for claims 1 and 2. As claim 4 depends on claim 2, claim 4 would not be obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over the Admission in view of *Powell*. Applicant thus respectfully submits that claim 4 is in condition for allowance.

As for claim 7, the Examiner alleges that the union sleeve 150 includes threads 151 for attaching an extractor tool for removing a transducer and a transducer holder from the holder sleeve 130 inner diameter.

Applicant repeats its statements made above for claim 1. As claim 7 depends on claim 1, claim 7 would not be obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over the Admission in view of *Powell*. Applicant thus respectfully submits that claim 7 is in condition for allowance.

II. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that claims 5, 8, 9, and 13-16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant repeats its statements made above for claims 1 and 2. As claims 5, 8, 9, and 13-16 depend either directly or indirectly on claims 1 and 2, claims 5, 8, 9, and 13-16 would not be obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over the Admission in view of *Powell*. Applicant thus respectfully submits that claims 5, 8, 9, and 13-16 are in condition for allowance.

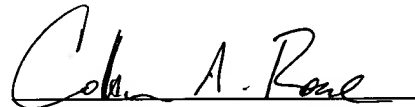
The Examiner states that claims 10-12 are allowed.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite the resolution of this case, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

In the course of the foregoing discussions, Applicant may have at times referred to claim limitations in shorthand fashion, or may have focused on a particular claim element. This discussion should not be interpreted to mean that the other limitations can be ignored or dismissed. The claims must be viewed as a whole, and each limitation of the claims must be considered when determining the patentability of the claims. There may also be other distinctions between the claims and the prior art that have yet to be raised, but that may be raised in the future.

Respectfully submitted,



Collin A. Rose

Reg. No. 47,036

CONLEY ROSE, P.C.

P.O. Box 3267

Houston, TX 77253-3267

(713) 238-8000 (Phone)

(713) 238-8008 (Fax)